



# Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

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For Environment Committee Public Hearing, March 16, 2009

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HB 6550 AAC ALLOWING THE DEP TO INSPECT SOLID WASTE  
FACILITIES AND INTERMEDIATE PROCESSING FACILITIES

HB 6551 AAC STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS

HB 6660 AAC AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR VARIOUS  
STATE GRANT PROGRAMS

### DIRECTORS

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Dear Chairman Meyer, Chairman Roy, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

*Rivers Alliance is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship. Our 600 members include approximately 100 CT organizations and businesses.*

The bills listed here indirectly affect the state's water resources.

Rivers Alliance supports HB 6550 because inspection and enforcement have been such weak links in our environmental programs. Frankly, I would prefer to mandate inspections rather than just allow them. The most recent mishandled waste site brought to our attention by river advocates is on Echo Lake Road in Watertown. The state, the town, the neighbors, and the waters would be far better off today if effective monitoring and enforcement had been focused on this dump.

We support HB 6551 because well-managed state forests are both a source of revenue and an ideal protection for water quality.

We support HB 6660 insofar as it affirms the need to invest in the assets identified in the Face of Connecticut campaign. There is no greater threat to the resources in the public trust than haphazard, irrational sprawl development. The FACE advocates who have testified to the Smart Growth legislative work groups and elsewhere make a strong case that the investments proposed in this bill will provide jobs and a better quality of life.

Margaret Miner, Executive Director

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Margaret Miner

### DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Rose Guimaraes

### PROGRAM

Rose Guimaraes  
Amanda Branson

### WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Tony Mitchell

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organization under  
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Code